

# The Providence Report

**Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth**

**Fairfax County Board of Supervisors**

**Volume XVII, Issue III**

**Fall 2011**

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## A message from Supervisor Smyth

While the county's Fiscal Year 2012 budget presented a more stable financial picture than we have seen in preceding years, we know that Fairfax may still face economic challenges. Realizing that economic recovery will be uneven, the Board of Supervisors continues to look for ways to streamline county government and reduce costs. One of the ways that we plan to make county operations more efficient and effective is through the FOCUS project, which will replace Fairfax's legacy technology systems. For the first time integrating county government and school technology platforms, the FOCUS project will modernize and derive efficiencies from consolidated services in areas such as finance, human resources, and procurement (see full article in this newsletter).

The Auditor to the Board of Supervisors has also been invaluable in our mission to cut costs. In his latest Quarterly Report, the Auditor researched the county's telecommunications expenditures. Working with our Department of Information Technology, the Auditor showed that Verizon, the largest vendor of telecommunications services to the county government, had overcharged us by \$900,000 in a 12 month period. There were errors in contract rates as well as problems with "slamming" and "cramming" (unauthorized long distance and optional services). The refund from Verizon is now in progress, and safeguards against future contract overbilling will be put in place.

Here in the Providence District Supervisor's office, we are still holding the line on expenses. During the past four years, I have saved over **\$388,000** from my office budget and returned it to the county's General Fund. This is the largest amount returned to the General Fund by any member of the Board of Supervisors. Cutting costs, however, does not mean cutting services. We are here to help. As always, please contact my office with any questions or concerns.

~ Linda Smyth



Mark your calendar! The Greater Merrifield Business Association welcomes residents to the **Seventh Annual Merrifield Fall Festival**. Come enjoy a day filled with the sights and sounds of Merrifield featuring fun for the whole family. Food, carnival rides, a fire truck train, face painting, rockwall climb, pumpkin painting, shopping, handmade crafts, and live entertainment including: The Splinters Band, Scott Ramminger and the CrawStickers Band, Ronald McDonald, the Jubilee Balloon Artist, the Cardinal Cloggers, and so much more! Back by popular demand is the County Environmental Health interactive booth with useful resource materials about the environment and disease carrying insects. Entry to the Festival is free and in case of rain, events will be moved indoors. For more information search **Greater Merrifield Fall Festival** on Facebook.com.

### Friends of Oakton Library Used Book Sale

To be held September 22-24 at the Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl., Oakton; phone, 703-242-4020.

Hours: Thursday, 1-8 pm; Friday, 10 am-6 pm; Saturday, 10 am-4 pm.

Gently used books may be donated until Sept. 14 during library hours.

## Upcoming Elections After Redistricting –

### **WATCH YOUR MAIL FOR YOUR NEW VOTER CARDS**

The first voter cards after redistricting should be mailed sometime around the week of August 8 and will reflect the changes in the state Senate, House of Delegates and county supervisor districts in time for primaries held August 23. Another round of voter cards will be mailed in the October timeframe for the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2011. This second round of voter cards is necessary to reflect changes in precinct boundaries as a result of the state and Board of Supervisors redistricting process. A chart containing information on these precinct changes in the Providence District follows on the next page.

The Office of Elections is committed to providing each citizen of Fairfax County with the opportunity to exercise his or her right to vote in an efficient and equitable manner in accordance with the Constitutions of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Code of Virginia. The Offices of the Electoral Board and the General Registrar are located at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323, Fairfax, VA 22035 and are open for business weekdays, excluding county holidays, 8:00 am until 6:00 pm. They be contacted by phone at 703-222-0776.

The offices on the calendar for the 2011 elections to be held on November 8, 2011, include the state Senate, House of Delegates, Board of Supervisors, School Board, Commonwealth's Attorney, Sheriff and the Soil and Water Conservation District. More information about voting, government, elected officials and candidates may be found by going to the links provided at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/links.htm>. The links are for information only and do not imply an endorsement for any organization or political issue. **On Election Day, voters requiring an immediate response to questions concerning their voter registration or polling information should contact the Office of the Electoral Board (703-324-4735) or the Office of the General Registrar (703-222-0776) by phone, not by email.**

You must be registered to vote by completing and submitting a Virginia Voter Registration form. To remain

a qualified registered voter, the law requires you to notify your local voter registration office of any change in your name or address. This must be done before the registration books close for the next election. You can submit your notice of change of name or address either by mail or by fax (703-324-2205). In either case, the notice must include your signature to be valid. Notice cannot be made by telephone or by e-mail. After your change is processed, you will be mailed a new Voter Information Card. If a new card does not arrive within a few weeks, please call 703-222-0776 to confirm that your notice was received. The deadline is 22 days prior to any general or primary election and 13 days before a special election. Virginia Voter Registration Applications are available from my office, at a variety of convenient locations, or they may be downloaded from the website. You may find information on locations or a link to download the form at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/vregis.htm>.

Virginia voters are reminded that legislation adopted by the 2000 Virginia General Assembly requires voters to provide identification (ID) at the polls (or to sign an Affirmation of Identity) in order to vote. A voter who fails to bring acceptable ID to the polls may still vote after signing, under oath, an Affirmation of Identity, which is the voter's certification in writing that the name and address information provided to the election officials at the polling place is correct.

Registered voters who will be away from Fairfax County on Election Day, or who are unable to go to the polls because of illness or disability, may vote by absentee ballot. Eligible voters may vote in-person prior to election day or apply to receive an absentee ballot by mail. You may obtain an absentee ballot application at my office, from the Offices of the Electoral Board or the General Registrar, or you may download an application from the website. The absentee voting schedule, including in-person dates, times, locations and deadlines and a link to download an absentee ballot application is available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/absentee.htm>.

You can find the name of your state legislators by going to the Virginia General Assembly, Who's My Legislator website at <http://conview.state.va.us/whosmy.nsf/main?openform>. You will find additional information including a link to where you vote, upcoming elections, your registration status, absentee voting, valid forms of ID and much more by going to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/citizen> or by calling 703-222-0776.

## November 8<sup>th</sup> Election Information

Providence Precincts and Polling Locations – Note changes in precincts highlighted below	Senate 32 <sup>nd</sup> Howell	Senate 34 <sup>th</sup> Petersen	Senate 35 <sup>th</sup> Saslaw	Senate 37 <sup>th</sup> Marsden	House 35 <sup>th</sup> Keam	House 37 <sup>th</sup> Bulova	House 41 <sup>st</sup> Filler-Corn	House 53 <sup>rd</sup> Scott
Freedom Hill Precinct #704 - Freedom Hill Elementary School	X				X			
Magarity Precinct #726 - Westgate Elementary School	X				X			
<b>***Tysons Precinct #731 - 7921 Jones Branch Road</b>	X				X			
Blake Precinct #701 - Oakton High School School		X			X			
Mantua Precinct #707 - Kena Temple, 9001 Arlington Blvd		X					X	
<b>**Mosby Precinct #709 - Mosby Woods Elementary School</b>		X				X		
<b>**Hunters Branch Precinct #734 The Apartments at Regents Park, 9333 Clocktower Place, Fairfax</b>		X			X			
Price Precinct #711 - Mantua Elementary School		X					X	
Walker Precinct #714 - Fairhill Elementary School		X						X
Pine Ridge Precinct #718 - Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd		X						X
Stenwood Precinct #719 - Stenwood Elementary School		X			X			
Thoreau Precinct #720 - Thoreau Middle School		X			X			
Oakton Precinct #727 - U.U. Congregation of Fairfax		X			X			
Nottoway Precinct #729 - Hunter House at Nottoway Park		X			X			
Penderbrook Precinct #730 - Penderbrook Community Center		X			X			
Oak Marr Precinct #732 - Oak Marr Recreation Center		X			X			
Kilmer Precinct #733 - Kilmer Middle School		X			X			
<b>*Ft. Buffalo Precinct #703 - James Lee Community Center</b>			X					X
Graham Precinct #705 - Graham Road Elementary School			X					X
<b>*Greenway Precinct #706 - Timber Lane Elementary School</b>			X					X
Marshall Precinct #708 - Marshall High School			X					X
Pine Spring Precinct #710 - Pine Spring Elementary School			X					X
Shreve Precinct #712 - Shreveview Elementary School			X					X
Timber Lane Precinct #713 - Timber Lane Elementary School			X					X
Merrifield Precinct #721 - Luther Jackson Middle School			X					X
Woodburn Precinct #717 - Woodburn Elementary School				X				X

\*Several streets formerly in the **Ft. Buffalo Precinct** will be included in the **Greenway Precinct** to realign precinct boundaries and reunite the neighborhood. They are Bolling Road, Winchester Way, Summerfield Road to the Custis Parkway, and Cavalier Trail. For more specific information on the new Greenway Precinct boundaries please go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/precincts.htm>.

**\*\*The Mosby Precinct** is being divided into the Mosby Precinct and the new **Hunters Branch Precinct** to conform to the boundary between the 35<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> Delegate Districts that occurred as a result of redistricting. The boundary for the new **Hunters Branch Precinct** is I-66 to the north, Nutley Street to the east, Lee Highway to the south and East Blake Lane Park to the west. The polling place for the **Mosby Precinct will remain at the Mosby Woods Elementary School.** The polling place for the new **Hunters Branch Precinct will be located at The Apartments at Regents Park, 9333 Clocktower Place, Fairfax, VA 22031.**

**\*\*\*The polling place for the Tysons Precinct** is being moved from The Fountains at McLean, 1503 Lincoln Center Court to the **Providence Committee Meeting Room, 7921 Jones Branch Road, McLean** because it is a more accessible location.

Also, note that **Walnut Hill #2** was redistricted from the Providence District to the Mason District.



## 2011 Providence District VolunteerFest®

Supervisor Smyth is delighted to host the 2011 Providence District VolunteerFest® on October 22 in conjunction with Volunteer Fairfax's countywide VolunteerFest® and National Make a Difference Day. The week long 2011 Providence VolunteerFest® projects will kick off at the Seventh Annual Merrifield Festival on October 15 at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Greater Merrifield Business Association welcomes residents to the Seventh Annual Merrifield Festival. Come enjoy a day filled with the sights and sounds of Merrifield featuring family fun for all ages: food, carnival rides, a fire truck train, face painting, rockwall climb and pumpkin painting. Back by popular demand is the County Environmental Health interactive booth with useful resource materials about the various environmental impacts on our community and what residents can do as caretakers of our environment. Kids are welcome - learn about food safety, Lyme disease, hands on bugs, make your own tick, and more! Entry to the Festival is free and will be held rain or shine. Events will be moved indoors if it rains.

### All projects will take place on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, unless indicated otherwise

- **Food Drive** - Supervisor Smyth's office and the Hunter Mill Country Day School collect for Food for Others. Non perishable food donations may be dropped off from **October 12 - 21** at Supervisor Smyth's office anytime including weekends 8739 Lee Highway, Fairfax - or Hunter Mill Country Day School 2021 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna, 703-281-4422, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. weekdays only.
- **Easy Readers** - A program for first and second grade boys who need reading reinforcement - Oakton Library, Saturday, October 22 from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Prior registration is required to participate. For information, contact Michael Luciani at [easyreaders@gmail.com](mailto:easyreaders@gmail.com).
- **Oakton Community Park - 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.** — Weather permitting, horseback riding demonstration by Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program ([www.nvtrp.org](http://www.nvtrp.org)) sponsored by *Fairfax4Horses*.
- **Mini Golf** - Greater Merrifield Business Association (GMBA), Police Department and Park Authority host mentorship mini golf with selected Fairfax County Public School students from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- **Neighborhood Park Projects** - Fairfax County Park Authority hosts projects at Providence District Parks including Nottoway Park (removal of invasive plants). Details on projects are available by calling Erin Stocksclaeder at 703-324-8681, TTY 711.
- **Soldier Care Packages** - Join Troop Treats and James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church - packages for our soldiers serving abroad will be prepared from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. To donate and/or volunteer go to [www.trooptreats.com](http://www.trooptreats.com) or call Germaine Broussard, 703-608-4609.
- **Event Promotions** - The Providence Players at James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855-A James Lee Street, Falls Church. The 2011-2012 season opens October 14, at 7:30 p.m. with a production of the play *Auntie Mame*, which runs for 3 weeks on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and two Sunday matinees.

Supervisor Smyth and the 2011 Providence District VolunteerFest® Committee invite all residents to participate in this year's activities. More information is available on the 2011 VolunteerFest® website at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/events.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/events.htm) or by calling 703-560-6946, TTY 711 or on the Volunteer Fairfax website at <http://www.volunteerfairfax.org/non-profits/volunteerfest.php> or by calling Andy Jimenez at (703) 246-3826, TTY 711.

## Nottoway Habitat Restoration Project

Want to get a good workout and help the environment at the same time? Help save the Nottoway Park woodlands by volunteering to remove invasive plants that threaten trees and wildlife habitat and restore the forest with native plantings. Students and scouts, earn community service hours while learning something new.

**Workdays:** Saturdays (9 AM-Noon) October 1, October 22 (rain date: October 29); Wednesdays, (2-5 PM) September 14, October 12.

**More Information:** [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/ima](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/ima), 703-324-8681, TTY 711 or [friendsofnottoway@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofnottoway@gmail.com).

## Invasive plants are everywhere

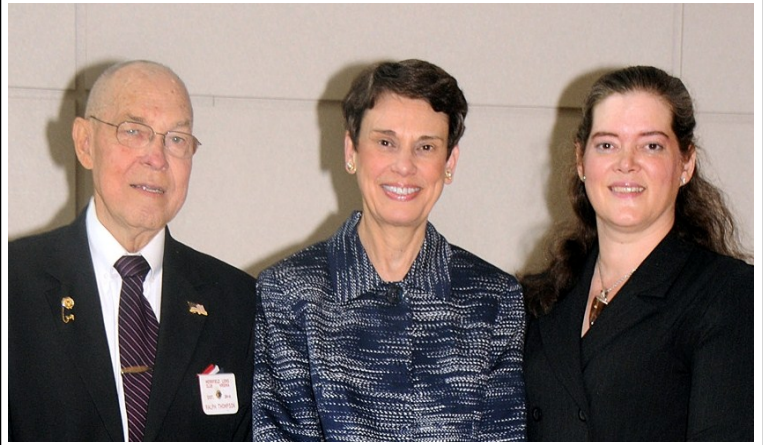
Many were brought to the US as landscape plants. The qualities that made them useful nursery specimens—hardy, easy to propagate, rapid growers—make them major competitors in the wild. As newcomers to ecosystems, they have no predators to control them. By crowding out indigenous plants essential to the ecosystem—as host plants for larvae, food and shelter sources—they threaten wildlife. Burning bush, English ivy and Winter Creeper may look harmless, but in natural areas they overrun native vegetation. How can you combat invasive plants? Learn to identify the aliens in your yard and plant friendly alternatives at [www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural\\_heritage/nativeplants.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/nativeplants.shtml).

## Volunteer Solutions for Elderly and Disabled Adults

Volunteer Solutions is a program to help neighbors with trips to doctors, grocery shopping, household chores and more. If you can offer time to help provide these services or if you are an older adult, an adult with disabilities or a caregiver of an older adult or adult with disabilities learn more about Volunteer Solutions by calling 703-324-7948 Monday thru Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm or go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices>.

## Home Repair for the Elderly

The Home Repair for the Elderly program is managed by the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development and is open to income-eligible senior homeowners and disabled homeowners who require minor repairs to their homes. The types of repairs provided by the program include: interior and exterior painting, electrical repair and replacement, window and door repair, plumbing repairs, screen replacements, gutter work, accessibility modifications such as installation of grab bars, railings. The county provides \$500 in materials to complete necessary repairs, which are paid for using county and federal funds. Materials and labor are provided free of charge. For more information on the program, please visit: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rha/seniorhousing/hrep.htm> or call 703-246-5154.



From left to right, “Lord” Ralph Thompson, Supervisor Linda Smyth and “Lady” Germaine Broussard – Picture courtesy of Celebrate Fairfax! and OPA

## “Lord and Lady Fairfax”

Each year, Celebrate Fairfax! and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors partner to honor extraordinary community leaders and volunteers in each magisterial district – they are the Lords and Ladies Fairfax. Below are the two outstanding volunteers and community leaders that were the 2011 Lord and Lady Fairfax for the Providence District. We thank them for their contributions.

**“Lord” Ralph Thompson** – Ralph takes an active leadership role in his community of Covington as past president and now on the Grounds Committee. Covington, as well as many other well-known landmarks such as the Pan Am Shopping Center, was built on land formerly owned by the Thompson family. Most notable is the Thompson Family Cemetery located at the intersection of Lee Highway and Nutley Street. While the exact number of graves is not known due to records destroyed by fires, it is believed that 50 or more relatives are buried at this cemetery including a soldier from the American Revolution.

In addition to his community, Ralph gives of his time in numerous organizations including the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, the Merrifield Community Association Foundation, as chairman of Lions Club District 24-A Sight and Hearing Mobile Screening Unit, Inc. and as a member of Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity dispensing recycled eyeglasses worldwide.

**“Lady” Germaine Broussard** – We previously featured “The Cookie Lady” in our Fall 2010 newsletter available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/doc/Newsletter15final.pdf>, page 4. She is the founder of TroopTreats.com, an IRS certified 501(c)3 charity, which allows her to receive tax deductible donations for postage and supplies that she sends to our troops serving overseas. Germaine organizes and participates with groups ranging from elementary schools to the VolunteerFest project, which was conducted in conjunction with National Make a Difference Day last year. On that occasion donated items were packed and mailed to approximately 3000 soldiers in one single day. Along with the cookies and supplies, Germaine also includes personal notes of thanks written or drawn by children, which are truly welcomed and touch the hearts of the soldiers.




## When a Door-to-Door Solicitor Knocks



Solicitors in the county are required to carry a valid Fairfax County Solicitor's License with them. It doesn't matter whether they're offering cable services, home improvements, home security alarms, magazine subscriptions, lawn or cleaning services or any other item or service; they're required to have a Fairfax County Solicitor's License issued by the Fairfax County Regulation and Licensing Branch. The license is a laminated card with the solicitor's photograph, name and other information – a copy of a Fairfax County Solicitor's License is below. Solicitors may only go door to door between 9:00 am and 8:00 pm and are required to leave when asked. You should immediately report violations and concerns about strangers in a neighborhood going door to door to the Fairfax County Police non-emergency number, 703-691-2131.

Before you agree to buy goods or services from a door-to-door salesperson, it is important to know your rights under the federal Cooling-Off Rule and the Virginia Home Solicitation Sales Act, including your right to cancel and the seller's obligations. Together these laws apply to virtually all purchases of \$25.00 or more made in your home or at any location that is not the seller's permanent place of business.

Solicitors from accredited educational institutions or solicitors selling insurance, newspapers, farm products grown by the seller, excluding meat, are not required to have a County Solicitor's License. Non-profit organizations registered with the State of Virginia and/or Fairfax County must carry identification indicating their registration but are not required to have a County Solicitor's License.

The Consumer Affairs Branch helps with filing consumer complaints, answering questions, compiling complaint histories, mediation, arbitration and consumer protection laws. For advice or assistance, investigators with the Consumer Affairs Branch are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm for walk-in assistance in Suite 433, Fairfax County Government Center, by phone at 703-222-8435 or online at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/contact/mailform.aspx?ref=2076>. There is also a convenient brochure developed by the Office of Consumer Protection regarding door-to-door solicitors at [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer/solicitors\\_license\\_brochure\\_201009.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer/solicitors_license_brochure_201009.pdf).

			
NAME Tina Norris			
ADDRESS 9673 Sunny Boulevard, Fairfax, VA 22030			
HEIGHT 5'5"	WEIGHT 110	EYES Blue	HAIR Blonde
DOB 12/10/1982		DRIVER LICENSE # T65-11-1111	
ISSUED (DATE) 4/12/2009		EXPIRES (DATE) 4/12/2010	
<b>IT IS AGAINST THE LAW</b> 1. To not have this license in your possession when peddling/soliciting. 2. To refuse to show this license to a purchaser or a police officer. 3. To peddle/solicit before 9:00 a.m. or after 8:00 p.m. 4. To peddle/solicit upon property where signs prohibit such activity. 5. To peddle/solicit from a state highway right of way. 6. To violate the provisions of the Virginia Consumer Protection Act or the Home Solicitation Sales Act.			
FAIRFAX COUNTY DOES NOT, BY ISSUING THIS LICENSE, ENDORSE EITHER THE LICENSEE, BUSINESS OR PRODUCT. <b>PEDDLERS/SOLICITORS LICENSE</b>			
Director, Consumer Protection Division Dept. of Cable Comm. and Consumer Protection CA-136			

TYPE OF GOODS Retail	NO. S09-104
EMPLOYER CMHJ's Ice Cream	PHONE 703-822-3333
EMPLOYER'S ADDRESS 1212 Happy Street, Falls Church, VA 22046-4405	
LEFT THUMB PRINT 	RIGHT THUMB PRINT 

While it's not evident in this newsletter copy, the expiration date on the actual license is in red ink on the front of the license so it is easy to spot. Another feature is the holographic seal on the license. The above is for demonstration purposes only.

## Miss Utility Marking Codes

We often receive calls about the painted markings on the street or in a yard. Miss Utility of Virginia has a color code system for marking underground utilities. The key to the code is provided below, and remember always to call Miss Utility of Virginia (811 or 1-800-552-7001) at least 3 working days before beginning to dig on any project.

Red	Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables
Yellow	Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials
Orange	Communications, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit
Blue	Potable Water
Purple	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation and Slurry lines
Green	Sewer and Drain Lines
Pink	Temporary Survey Markings
White	Proposed Excavation

## **FOCUS – The Fairfax County Unified System Project**

Many of the technology applications that are core to running the county government and school operations are well beyond their useful lifecycle, are technologically obsolete and do not have capabilities that are available in current technology. The FOCUS project seeks to integrate the county and school systems, mitigate the risk that antiquated and disjointed systems pose for system failure, reduce administrative inefficiencies and inferior data utility, and to find ways to streamline the work so that tasks are done well, in less time and with less waste. Seldom do governments have the chance to really look at how they do business and rework systems and processes to be more efficient. In these tough budget times, it's vital to find ways to do things more efficiently.

The Fairfax County government and the Fairfax County Public Schools began planning for this project in 2007 and began actual implementation work in 2010. This multi-year, joint initiative will modernize systems that support finance, human resources, budget, procurement and related administration applications with an integrated approach to provide flexibility in meeting current and future requirements. This is referred to in the marketplace as an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. A governance body of senior officials of the government and school system stakeholder agencies was created to form a project steering committee. Additionally, a joint project team comprised of county and school employees was selected to provide the necessary core resources to lead the project's effort, and the Government Finance Officers' Association was retained to provide expertise during the planning and procurement phases of the project.

Using the county's competitive procurement process, Fairfax purchased SAP software and then solicited for a firm to implement the software. Ultimately, "SAP Consulting" was selected. The firm not only implements SAP software but also 'rescues' implementations being handled by other vendors. The first phase of the FOCUS implementation is expected to be completed this calendar year. Shortly thereafter, once the system is in use and actual data is collected, increased transparency and enhanced reporting will be available to county and school users and to residents.

As the FOCUS project progresses, we look forward to opportunities to maximize operational efficiencies by consolidating independent county and school business processes and advancing the ability to provide e-government, e-business, and e-procurement services to the community.

## **Obtain Permits Online**

The Fairfax Inspections Database Online (FIDO) system is now allowing residents and contractors to apply for residential electrical and plumbing, household appliances, and finished basements permits online at <http://fido.fairfaxcounty.gov>. Additional categories are expected to be added in the coming months. To learn more about creating an online account, see the website or call 703-222-0801.



*From left: Tania Hossain, President, Federation of Citizens' Associations; Anthony 'Tony' Griffin, County Executive; Supervisor Linda Smyth; Supervisor Penny Gross; Chairman Sharon Bulova. © 2011 - Fairfax Federation - picture taken by Bill or Mary Pat Byrnes*

## **County Executive Receives Special Gratitude Award**

Tony Griffin, County Executive for Fairfax County, received a Special Gratitude Award at the Federation of Citizens' Associations Banquet in May. The award was given for providing Fairfax County with solid leadership, good fiscal stewardship, and for motivating and inspiring the county workforce. He helped distinguish Fairfax County as both a world-class center of commerce and trade and the technology hub of the East Coast. Under his leadership, Fairfax County, well known as a wonderful place to live, work and play, continues to provide the quality of life we expect, despite the new challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. His tenure encompassed projects both large and small, including those that will have a significant impact on Fairfax County and the region for years to come. Congratulations, Tony!

## **Reporting Complaints or Concerns**

The new Department of Code Compliance handles complaints related to:

**Animals and Pets**  
**Building Lots and Lane Use**  
**Construction**  
**Hoarding**  
**Noise**  
**Property Maintenance**  
**Outdoor Lighting**  
**Signs**  
**Vehicles and Parking**

You may submit a complaint regarding the above topics and/or search the status of a complaint at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code/> anytime or by calling 703-324-1300, TTY 711, Monday – Thursday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm or Friday, 9:15 am – 4:00 pm. You may find links to report a variety of other issues such as roads and trails, the environment, crime and law enforcement, consumer issues, lost animals, dead birds, tax evaders or discrimination at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/complaints>.

# Land Use Updates

## Pending Tysons Rezoning Applications

The **Spring Hill Station “Demonstration Project”, RZ 2010-PR-014 (Georglas Group, LLC)**, is located north of the future Tysons-Spring Hill Road Metro Station and proposes to develop three new mixed use neighborhoods totaling over 28 acres. Two related pending rezoning applications including RZ 2010-PR-14-B (*Neighborhood 3-Part B, Conceptual Development Plan*) and RZ 2010-PR-014-A (*Neighborhood 2-Part A, Conceptual Development Plan and Final Development plan*) are scheduled for public hearings before the Planning Commission on September 8, 2011, and before the Board of Supervisors on September 27, 2011. Both applications make commitments to architectural designs, Leed certification, transportation improvements, affordable and workforce housing, recreational facilities and public facility contributions in addition to the development of parks and a new urban fire station.

**RZ-2010-PR-014-A** proposes the approval of a Conceptual Development Plan and Final Development Plan to develop an approximately 26 story residential building (no taller than 300') located on the east side of Spring Hill Road and less than ¼ mile from the Tysons Spring Hill Road Metro Station.

**RZ 2010-PR-14-B** proposes the approval of a Conceptual Development Plan for Neighborhood 3 including the phased development of a grid of new streets that would serve four multifamily residential buildings no taller than 290' with a public park and an option to develop a new fire station.

Staff reports and proffers for both applications will be posted online for review before the public hearings. To review all the pending rezoning applications in Tysons Corner use the following link: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner/tysons-active-zoning-cases.htm>

## Merrifield Updates

The developers of three approved mixed use projects in the Providence District, including redevelopment of the Dunn Loring Metro Station by Mill Creek Residential, the DFS Long Merrifield Halstead mixed use project and the Merrifield Town Center (Mosaic at Merrifield), are all moving forward with construction of their respective projects.

Edens & Avant, the developer of **Mosaic at Merrifield**, began construction of the Merrifield Town Center last year and is quickly constructing the first phase of the development fronting Lee Highway including an urban Target store, a boutique hotel and additional ground floor retail and restaurant space. Subsequent phases will include retail, restaurant space, multifamily residential buildings, townhomes, a new movie theater and a one acre park.

Edens & Avant is also realigning and upgrading Eskridge Road to connect to Lee Highway to form a new intersection with Merrilee Drive. The county is working to complete the connection of Eskridge Road south to Williams Drive (and Route 50). This crucial comprehensive planned connection will allow direct access to the Dunn Loring Metro Station without having to use Gallows Road or Prosperity Avenue. For more information on development approvals see <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPMain.aspx?cde=RZ&seq=4086975>.

## Demystifying Development Terminology

The development process can often seem arcane to both average citizens and professionals engaged in land use on a daily basis. Fairfax County prides itself on its efforts to demystify the development process so residents can better understand and actively participate in the public planning and zoning process. To that end let's review two examples of often used but not necessarily understood development jargon.

### By Right Development:

“By right development” is a colloquial term of art that is often used to refer to development projects that are permitted under their current zoning and do not require any public hearings or approvals by the Board of Supervisors or the Planning Commission. “By right” projects are reviewed administratively by county staff for compliance with building codes and ordinances.

### Grandfathered Uses:

The term “grandfathered use” is often used interchangeably with the term legally non-conforming use or nonconforming use. Both terms generally indicate that a parcel of land or established use is legally exempt from current zoning ordinances because the use pre-dated adoption of current applicable zoning ordinances. The Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance contains a definition of nonconforming building or use:

**NONCONFORMING BUILDING OR USE:** *A building or use, lawfully existing on the effective date of this Ordinance or prior ordinances, which does not conform with the regulations of the zoning district in which it is located, except as may be qualified by Sect. 15-101 of this Ordinance.* (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/zoningordinance/articles/art20.pdf>)

**If you have any questions, please contact my Land Use Aide, Michael Wing, at 703-560-6946.**



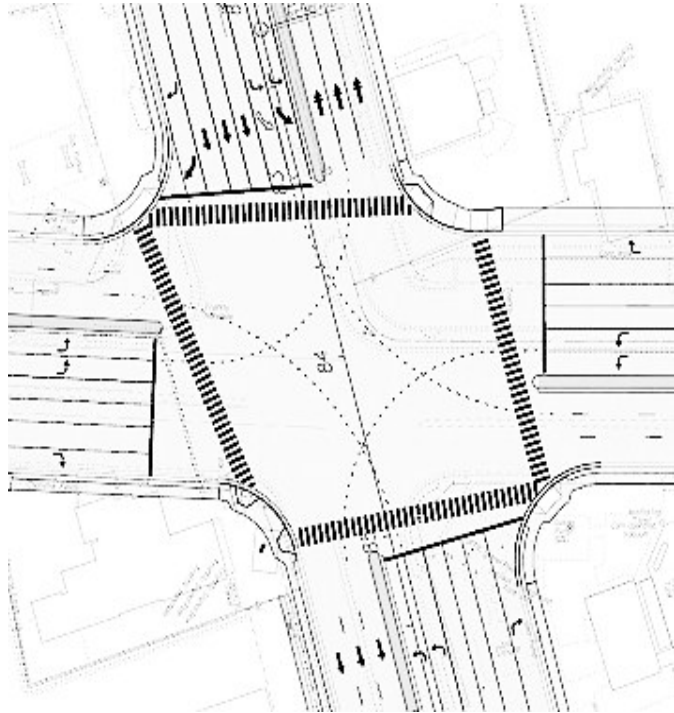
# TRANSPORTATION MATTERS

## Tysons Metrorail Station Access Management Study

The final Tysons Metrorail Station Access Management Study (TMSAMS) public meeting, where the Fairfax County Department of Transportation will present the results of outreach efforts, will be held on October 4 at Freedom Hill Elementary School, from 7 pm until 9 pm. This study identifies areas where additional planning and analysis are needed, and develops a prioritization of recommended pedestrian, bicycle and bus service improvements. Freedom Hill Elementary School is located at 1945 Lord Fairfax Rd, Vienna, VA, 22182. If you have any questions, please call Kris Morley-Nikfar (FCDOT) at 703-877-5672 or Micah Himmel in the Providence District Office at 703-560-6946. In addition, please visit the TMSAMS website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/tmsams/>.

## Lee Highway and Gallows Road

VDOT has begun mobilizing for the construction phase of the intersection improvement project at the intersection of Lee Highway and Gallows Road. The project is scheduled for substantial completion in the fall of 2012. When finished, the intersection will be widened to accommodate right turn and dual left turn lanes in each direction. The project also includes extensive sidewalks along both roads. More information on the project can be found online at [http://viriniadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/lee\\_highway\\_and\\_gallows\\_road.asp](http://viriniadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/lee_highway_and_gallows_road.asp).



Final configuration of Lee Highway & Gallows Road Intersection

## HOT Lanes

The Capital Beltway HOT (High Occupancy Toll) Lanes Project will bring the most significant improvements to the Beltway since its opening in 1964. With December 2012 slated for the opening of the HOT Lanes, construction is approximately 70 percent complete. Since the beginning of 2011, crews have completed the reconstruction of several bridges and Beltway traffic shifts to new pavement on both I-495 north and south. Over 75 percent of sound walls have been completed and scheduled to continue into 2012. This year the project will complete new interchange bridges and begin work on the new HOT Lanes in the middle of the Beltway.

## Early Summer Highlights

Opened Leesburg Pike (Route 7) eastbound span

Opened W&OD Trail pedestrian overpass

Opened Gallows Road northbound bridge

## Traffic Shifts

As traffic shifts to the new outer Beltway lanes, work begins on the new HOT Lanes in the middle of the Beltway. Phased shifts of I-495 north and southbound to the new outer lanes will continue throughout the summer between the W&OD Trail to Route 7 (completed) and Gallows Road to Lee Highway (August). Be sure to check <http://www.virginiahottlanes.com/> for more information. Also, Jeff Wagner ([Jeff.Wagner@Fluor-Lane.com](mailto:Jeff.Wagner@Fluor-Lane.com)) of Fluor-Lane and Jamie Breme ([J.Breme@vamegaprojects.com](mailto:J.Breme@vamegaprojects.com)) of Virginia Megaprojects can directly field inquiries.

## Hilltop Road and Prosperity Avenue

This project includes the construction of two new pedestrian islands and pedestrian crosswalks with countdown signals at the intersection of Prosperity Avenue and Hilltop Road. The county Department of Transportation plans to complete the project this September. Funding for this project comes from a developer proffer and the Commercial and Industrial Transportation Tax.

## Car Free Day

Thursday, September 22, 2011, is Car Free Day in the Washington DC Metropolitan Region. This one day event, an effort by the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, encourages commuters to use transit, bicycling, walking, and "car lite" modes such as carpools, vanpools, and teleworking. For more information, please visit <http://www.carfreemetrodc.com/>.

## Dulles Metrorail

Citizens can stay abreast of Silver Line Metrorail developments by contacting Ms. Marcia McAllister, project communications manager, by phone (703-572-0506) or via e-mail at [marcia.mcallister@dullesmetro.com](mailto:marcia.mcallister@dullesmetro.com). To register for alerts about traffic advisories, citizens can visit <http://www.dullesmetro.com/> for project information.

## VDOT Mowing Priorities

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is responsible for maintaining 58,000 miles of roadsides in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Responsibilities include mowing grass, pruning trees, cutting brush and removing litter along roads throughout the commonwealth. Due to economic conditions, mowing cycles have been cut back but crews will continue to address areas along all roads as needed where vegetation may limit the sight of drivers, cyclists or pedestrians. Residents are encouraged to report any roadside vegetation causing sight distance issues by filling out VDOT's "report a road problem" page at <http://www.viriniadot.org/travel/citizen.asp> or by calling 800-367-7623 (800-FOR-ROAD). TTY users call 711.



### Luther Jackson Middle School Fields

Improvements to Luther Jackson Middle School playing fields include synthetic turf, lighting and parking adjacent to the fields. These improvements were completed with in-kind work and cash contributions from Merrifield developers, the Park Authority (lighting) and athletic group user fees.

### Emergency Preparedness Reminders

The county's Office of Emergency Preparedness encourages residents and businesses to prepare to be self-sufficient for a minimum of three days (72 hours) or longer depending on the type of emergency. You should have emergency supply kits ready and think about your home, workplace, vehicle, extracurricular activities as well as your pets. Emergency supply kits can be purchased from numerous sources, including the American Red Cross, or you can put one together from basic supplies on hand keeping in mind the basics for survival: fresh water, food, clean air and warmth.

Your family may be at different locations when an emergency occurs so you will need to have a plan to get in touch with each family member. Individuals should be assigned specific responsibilities with pre-established places to meet. There is a make-a-plan tool available to assist with this important effort at <http://www.makeaplan.org/preparednessform.htm>. Additional information on being prepared is available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/prepare/> or by calling 703-324-2362.

The Fairfax County Emergency Alert Network (CEAN) delivers important alerts, notifications and updates during a major crisis or emergency in addition to day-to-day notices about weather and traffic. Messages can be delivered to your email, cell phone, text pager, satellite phone and/or wireless device. To register go to <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean>

The Special Needs Registry allows residents with medical needs and organizations assisting those with social needs an opportunity to provide information to Fairfax County so that agencies can communicate emergency preparedness, response and recovery resources to our vulnerable, at risk and hard-to-reach residents. The information collected will only be shared with Fairfax County agencies and partner agencies and organizations to improve their ability to serve and will not be available to the public. In order to register as an individual or organization go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/specialneeds/>.

### Project Lifesaver

Can you imagine that your elderly or disabled loved one has wandered out due to Alzheimer's, Down syndrome, autism or related diseases and disabilities and you don't have any way to find them? The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver program can help. Project Lifesaver clients wear a wristband that emits a silent tracking signal. When caregivers notify the Sheriff's Office that a loved one is missing, a highly trained team responds to the area with state-of-the-art equipment. These efforts have drastically reduced search times to an average of 30 minutes or less. The program has a 100 percent track record of locating wandering adults and children and bringing them home safe and sound. For more information please visit the Sheriff's Office website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sheriff/lifesaver.htm> or contact Lieutenant Jason Travis at 703-246-2805 or email [shf-projectlifesaver@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:shf-projectlifesaver@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### Fertilizer and Our Watersheds

"Fertilize in the fall, if at all." Excess fertilizers are washed off the land into streams by stormwater and are a large contributor to the pollution that harms the Chesapeake Bay. The extra load of nutrients from fertilizer causes huge algae blooms which then lead to "dead zones" in the bay. Fertilizing your lawn in the spring only contributes to increased blade growth, which then means more mowing (causing more air pollution). Fertilizing properly in the fall will improve the health of your lawn because this is the time of year that the roots grow stronger and denser. Pick up a soil test kit at your local home improvement store or from the Virginia Cooperative Extension service to find out what fertilizers, if any, your lawn needs. Protect the health of your local stream and the bay, and save money at the same time! More information can be found here: <http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-003/430-003.html>.



*Hunter's Branch Stream Restoration Project: This picture shows step pools that slow down the velocity of the stormwater runoff. The project was funded by developer cash proffers.*



## School News

### Patty Reed, School Board member Providence District

Although our students are out of school enjoying their summer, the School Board continues its work. Here are some of the issues I am addressing at this time.

**Facilities and Upcoming Bond Referendum:** Board members receive periodic briefings on the status of our school facilities and capital improvement plans. The physical condition of our buildings and their capacity to accommodate enrollment are critical components of a quality education for our students. In addition to reviewing the updates, I meet with FCPS facilities staff on a regular basis to specifically discuss the state of our Providence District school buildings. As you drive through the Providence District, you will see your tax dollars at work in the funding of renovations to increase capacity at Devonshire Elementary School which will open in the fall of 2012 (when Graham Elementary School closes), Stenwood Elementary School scheduled for completion in August 2011, and Oakton Elementary School with a completion date of August 2012. The contract to renovate Marshall High School was awarded in June. Construction will begin this summer with anticipated completion in 2014. A new elementary school is being built on the former Lacey Administration site and will open in 2012. Although the school is located in the Mason District, it will draw enrollment from schools in the Providence District that are currently over crowded.

**Facility renovations and additions will become more critical as our enrollments increase and our facilities continue to age.** The use of bond monies allows the school system to pay for capital improvements and to spread the financing of school construction and renovation over a number of years, thereby allowing the contribution of all users throughout a facility's lifecycle. A school bond referendum will be on the ballot in November 2011. If approved, this bond would provide necessary funds to renovate or expand a number of schools in the county, including Thoreau MS. The quality of an FCPS education is one of the top reasons businesses are attracted to Northern Virginia; excellent schools promote economic value to the entire community. To maintain our world-class school system, we must provide our students and teachers with adequate facilities.

In addition to school instruction, FCPS facilities are used for non-school-related activities, such as clubs, sports, and community meetings. Regardless of the group using our schools, FCPS strives to be a good neighbor by ensuring that users adhere to county ordinances regarding noise, lighting, and crowd control. Our community use department requires a signed Memorandum of Understanding with the school system before allowing any group to use our facilities.

**Honors Courses:** I continue to be concerned about the elimination or lack of honors courses in some instructional areas, leaving only standard level, Advanced Placement (AP), and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. Although we discussed the issue during the School Board's July 2011, work session, I requested a follow-up work session. We have asked staff to provide objective data that the Board can use to make an informed policy decision. This is yet another example of our commitment to request high-level comparative analyses that will also increase **transparency** by providing the public a clear rationale for options considered, rejected, and approved by the Board.

**Providence Pride:** I was pleased to congratulate rising Oakton High School Senior **Stephen Axelson** on his second annual Walk for Water for Africa event. Last year, funds were used to purchase wells in rural Ghana. Stephen travelled to Ghana in the spring to see the impact of his efforts firsthand. The Fairfax Corner community event included a 5-kilometer run and non-competitive walk, a 1-kilometer children's fun run, as well as live music by Madison/Oakton high school musicians, The Minor Kings. Proceeds from this year's event will be used to purchase additional wells and pumps in Ghana.

The views expressed in this column are my personal views as your School Board member and may not reflect the perspective of the full Fairfax County School Board. I welcome your comments and concerns about FCPS business. Please send your messages to [Patricia.Reed1@fcps.edu](mailto:Patricia.Reed1@fcps.edu). Please note that all correspondence is subject to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Contact Information: FCPS E-mail: [Patricia.Reed1@fcps.edu](mailto:Patricia.Reed1@fcps.edu), Voice Mail: 571-423-1084  
Kathy Partlow, Executive Administrative Assistant  
[KFPartlow@fcps.edu](mailto:KFPartlow@fcps.edu)

**Not Stopping for School Buses Is Reckless Driving.** The yellow school buses will soon be back on the road transporting children throughout the day, including rush hours. The Code of Virginia in Section 46.2-859 provides that a person driving a motor vehicle shall stop their vehicle when approaching, from any direction, any school bus that is stopped on any public road, private road, or school driveway for the purpose of taking on or discharging children, etc., and remain stopped until all the persons are clear of the public road, private road, or school driveway and the bus is put in motion. Once a school bus stops and activates its stop lights and stop sign, other drivers on the road must stop their vehicles in both directions, unless they are separated from the bus by a physical median. Failure to do so is reckless driving. Reckless driving is a Class 1 Misdemeanor which is punishable by up to 1 year in jail and/or a \$2,500 fine.

**Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth**  
**Fairfax County Board of Supervisors**  
 8739 Lee Highway  
 Fairfax, VA 22031

## THE PROVIDENCE REPORT

### Must-Have Phone Numbers

**Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth**

Telephone: 703-560-6946 / Fax: 703-207-3541 / TTY: 711

Adult Protective Services: 703-324-7450/ Child Protective Services: 703-324-7400

Suicide Crisis Hotline: (703) 527-4077 Rape Crisis Hotline: 1-800-656-4673

<b>Adult Education</b>	703-658-1201	<b>Alcohol/drug abuse services</b>	703-359-7040
<b>Animal Shelter</b>	703-830-1100	<b>Child care</b>	703-324-8100
<b>Consumer Affairs</b>	703-222-8435	<b>Circuit Courts</b>	703-691-7320
<b>Dept. of Motor Vehicles</b>	804-497-7100	<b>I-66 Disposal Sites</b>	703-631-1179
<b>Emergency</b>	911	<b>Fastran</b>	703-222-9764
<b>Fire/rescue</b> (non-emergency)	703-691-2131	<b>Gang Unit-Police</b>	703-246-4567
<b>Human Services</b>	703-222-0880	<b>Library, Oakton</b>	703-242-4020
<b>Park Authority</b>	703-324-8700	<b>Police</b> (non-emergency)	703-691-2131
<b>Tax Information</b>	703-222-8234	<b>Recreation Classes</b>	703-324-5550
<b>Recycling InfoLine</b>	703-324-5052	<b>School-Age Child Care Program</b>	703-449-8989
<b>School Board</b>	571-423-1075	<b>Senior Citizen Information</b>	703-324-7948
<b>Traffic Tickets</b>	703-246-3764	<b>Trash Pick-up</b>	703-324-5230
<b>VDOT</b>	703-383-8368	<b>Voting Information</b>	703-222-0776

Please call 703-FAIRFAX (703-324-7329), TTY 711 for other county related information.

Copies of the 2007 Providence Resource Directory are available by calling the Providence District Supervisor's office and are also available on the Providence District Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Prov\\_News.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/Prov_News.htm) ▪

Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Special accommodations will be provided upon request. For information call our office at 703-560-6946, TTY 711.